

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### DRILLING IN ANWR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KELLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the central issues of our time, and that is whether or not we should drill for oil in Alaska in an area known as ANWR.

I have just returned from a 4-day trip to ANWR to do a fact-finding mission to see this area firsthand. Those in our country who are for drilling in the ANWR section of Alaska say that there's a large amount of oil there, that it can be drilled in an environmentally friendly manner, and that the Alaskan people want it. Those who are against drilling in ANWR say there's only a trivial amount of oil there, it will hurt the pristine wilderness, and it will hurt the wildlife in that area, particularly polar bears and caribou.

Well, to answer those questions for myself, I went there. I just want to walk through a couple of them. First, let's talk about the amount of oil in the ANWR area. Having been there and talked with the experts, I can tell you that there is 10.4 billion barrels of oil in ANWR, according to the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Department of Interior. That 10.4 billion barrels of oil is enough oil to provide my home State of Florida with all of its petroleum needs for 29 years. It's enough to provide 1 million barrels of oil a day, every day, for the next 30 years.

The next issue comes up, Well, this will hurt the pristine wilderness area. Well, I traveled to ANWR, and you can see this map. This is the entire ANWR area. The only village in ANWR is called Kaktovik. I stood right there in the Arctic Ocean looking down at ANWR with the head elected leader, Mr. Fenton Rexford. As I looked out, all I saw was a flat, barren tundra.

I asked Mr. Rexford, Where are the trees? He said, there are no trees within 100 miles of this area that would be drilled. The area is not a pristine wilderness. It looks more like the moon than it does the rain forest.

The next issue becomes, Well, this will hurt wildlife. We hear from those

who have concerns particularly about caribou and polar bears. I saw both on my trip in visiting various parts of Alaska. There are 5,000 polar bears approximately in Alaska, and 800,000 caribou. Caribou are by far the most numerous of the large mammals in Alaska.

Are we concerned about diminishing numbers? No. Both the numbers of polar bears and caribou have increased every year since the last three decades. In fact, we know that they can coexist because right next to ANWR is an area called Prudhoe Bay, the single largest oil field in the United States.

When oil started to be taken out of Prudhoe Bay in the mid seventies, there were 3,000 caribou in that area. Today, there are over 30,000 caribou. The numbers have increased tenfold.

So the bottom line from my fact-finding mission to Alaska is this. There is a significant amount of oil there. Over 10 billion barrels. The Alaskans do want it, over 70 percent Statewide, and 90 percent of those who live along the ANWR coastal plain. This can be done without harm to the wilderness. There's not a tree within 100 miles. And 99.9 percent of ANWR would be off-limits to the drilling. It can be done without harm to wildlife, either polar bears or caribou. And we can have it all. We can have responsible, environmentally friendly drilling that reduces our dependence on foreign oil.

I made a promise to the Eskimo tribal leaders when I was there in Kaktovik, a small town with 300 folks, that I would come back and tell their story as objectively as I could. They said so few Members of Congress have ever visited there and they would like to just get the truth out for both sides. I hope today, by laying out as best I can my factual findings, I have honored their request. I urge folks to look at this issue objectively, as I have, and try to reach a fair conclusion.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KILPATRICK. For the Members who have sat all night as we pay special homage to our friend, colleague, and very special woman, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Special Order for Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. KILPATRICK. I'd like to yield to the former chairman, my predecessor

of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congressman MEL WATT.

Mr. WATT. I thank the gentlelady for convening this Special Order for us to pay tribute to our friend and colleague, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

In the midst of all our sadness I think the one thing that keeps occurring over and over and over again is wonderful, uplifting, fun stories and memories of STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. In fact, I was privileged to share a whole sequence of fun, funny, uplifting experiences with STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and I concur with my colleague, EMANUEL CLEAVER, who made a comment earlier that this life did not cheat our friend STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. She lived and enjoyed every single minute of it. Even when she was working, she was having fun. So I suspect you're going to hear from this group that is coming for this Special Order more stories about our experiences with her because they were all a series of fun experiences.

Let me start with this experience. Probably 3 weeks before STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' death, 7:30 a.m. in the morning the phone rings at my residence in Charlotte, North Carolina, and on the other end is STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES saying, Mel, I got into your city last night at about 10 o'clock in the morning. I was on my way from Memphis, Tennessee, where I had been campaigning for a person who was running for Congress, and I was on my way to give a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio, and there was bad weather in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I ended up spending the night at a motel in Charlotte, North Carolina, and I don't have any clothes and I am supposed to be giving a speech in Cincinnati later today. What can you do for me?

I said, Well, STEPHANIE, no problem. I will just have somebody pick you up, take you to the shopping center. You can do your shopping, buy a whole new wardrobe. So she went to all this excuse to go shopping. We will hook you up.

So that very morning, as soon as the stores opened in Charlotte, one of my staff members had STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES at the mall and she did her shopping and we got her to the airport by 11:30 that morning to catch her flight to Cincinnati. She went to Cincinnati and gave her speech.

Now I missed the opportunity to see the outfits—not one, but outfits—that STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES purchased that morning. She promised me she was going to show me the special outfit that she purchased, and I never got the opportunity to see it.

But as those kinds of stories that make STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES a real person to us, not just a colleague in Congress, but a friend, a peer, a confidante, a person that you knew that if she ever made a commitment to you, would be there come heck or high water. I am cleaning it up a little bit.

□ 2045

She was our friend, a delightful, wonderful person, always with a smile. She